

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION MEETING – Wednesday, May 08, 2013

In attendance: Peter Jacobi, Abby Henkel, Craig Widen, Jan Grant, Sally Gaskill, Paul Sturm, Jean Kautt, Lynn Schwartzberg, Alain Barker, Mary Norman. Ex-officio: Miah Michaelsen and Jillian Lea (assistant)

Financial report: please see attached information

Old Business:

Ad-hoc Grants to those who didn't receive Arts Project Grant funds:

- The Commission was asked by Peter Jacobi if it would be possible to offer smaller grants to those who didn't receive Arts Project Grants. This would offer a way to broaden the number of grants we give. Sally Gaskill suggested encouragement grants. Lynn Schwartzberg suggested that it was the right decision to not fund. Paul Sturm suggested that we reconsider our mission and adjust the cap, to help more organizations. Sturm: do we need to create another tier? Jacobi: considering my IAC experience, perhaps there needs to be a broader level of support. Jan Grant suggested tabling the conversation to the next meeting, when the commission will be in a position to reconsider the issues in more substance as it revises the documentation and procedures. Craig Widen: is there a point at which the commission should fund previously supported organizations differently? Jan Grant asked commission members to send their comments and suggestions before the next meeting.

Modification Request from Cardinal:

- Miah Michaelsen mentioned that her office has never had a project modification request until now. From a mechanics standpoint, the money has already been earmarked and the commission would not be able to roll it back into its funds. Lynn Schwartzberg mentioned that the project is outside the date-scope of the expectations and didn't believe that it would be good fiscal stewardship, if we were to consider the request. Paul Sturm said he likes the general overview of the request. However, the modification seems vague and requested a complete modification to the proposal.
- Motion: To approve an extension pending submission of a more detailed budget and narrative, by one week prior to the Commission's June meeting. (Moved by Sturm, seconded by Jacobi. All but one voted favor. One opposed (Widen).

Staff Report: Miah Michaelsen

- Was recently talking to the Imagine Bloomington Group, which is responsible for the pre-revisions to the City's growth policies plan, considering what kind of community we want to be, what sort of arts and cultural community we want to be. Areas of discussion include creativity,

a creative community, accessibility, etc. She will send info to us about the group and its deliberations.

- IAC RIG Grants went well.
- Ivy Tech grant. Project will be completed by May 24
- Transit Project received 23 submissions. Panel will meet on Friday (May 10?) at 10am.

Guest Presentation: Mark Tschida from Non-Profit Central (NPC)

- The Bloomington Community Foundation has given funds for a resource center for nonprofits, located at the Monroe County Public Library. Staffed Monday through Friday from 1-5pm. Three areas of service: (1) Organizations (staff, volunteers, and board). (2) Access to physical and online resources such as funding, governance, marketing, etc. (3) Library also maintains the foundation funding database. The NPC also maintains a community organization spreadsheet, enabling keyword searches to help with info. The plan is to offer training sessions in areas of need. The center will shy away from board training because of the Bloomington volunteer network and Ivy Tech services already in place. The project will help promote the library as a physical resource for organizations, with meeting rooms, etc. Mark will send a note to Miah with more information. Arts groups looking to mobilize have been most receptive. Mark will be meeting with Ivy Tech to see how they can fit in with their activities. The center will also assist with "Serve IT", an informatics learning program. There are up to five students who handle IT questions. The IU Bloomington law school is establishing service within the center, with open office hours to organizations for legal questions.

Communications Plan Update: Jillian

- The conversation focused on how many events to include on the commission's website and Facebook page. The general consensus was to focus on those events and projects that the commission supports.

New Business:

- Public art discussion by Miah Michaelson: A limestone sculpture was discussed, possibly by David Rogers, currently on private property. The plan is to relocate it to the new Tapp Rd. roundabout. This would be part of a total re-landscaping of a number of roundabouts (including the one at Renwick). Parks & Rec will provide the pad. The commission would need to officially identify it as part of the City's public art collection. Maintenance will be shared with Parks and Public works. No name on the sculpture yet. Motion to accept the artwork (Sturm), seconded (Widen). All voted in favor.
- Arts Commission Creative Assistance Program update by Jillian. She asked if it would make sense to add commissioner's organization affiliation in documentation shared with organizations. The general view was that the BAC website has enough information. Suggestion by Alain Barker:

document the range of services available by commission members on the web. Consultations would follow, then referral to the members of the commission.

Arts Advocacy Report: Sally Gaskill

- Federal Washington DC arts day. The Indiana delegation met with staff of both Indiana US Senators and 7 of 9 members of Congress on Arts Advocacy Day. We were fortunate to have a Bloomington High School North student and her mother with us. The student, Maria Halloran, had written the winning essay on the importance of theater education, as awarded by the National Theatre Education Association. As we spoke about the importance of federal funding for the arts, Maria was a particularly effective advocate. We met personally with Todd Young, Bloomington's second-term Congressman; as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, it is important for us to reach him with our message.
- The Indiana State budget was approved, thanks to the Indiana Coalition for the Arts and its paid lobbyist. This was the first increase in funding for 6 years. The IAC moved from 42nd to 38th in the nation (out of 50). The funding went up by \$275k and is devoted to arts project and organizational support.